

Which National Football League Teams Are The Most "Literary"?

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Which National Football League Teams Are The Most "Literary"?

By Brian Hill

>From time to time during the broadcast of an NFL game the announcer will describe one of the teams as a "storied franchise." The dictionary defines the word "storied" as "celebrated or famous in history or story." In the case of a football team, how is this measured? Which franchises are the truly "storied" ones?

One reflection of a team having attained "storied" status might be the number of books published on the subject of that team. Author Brian Hill, (Over Time, a novel and the nonfiction book, The Making of a Bestseller, about the publishing industry,) comes up with the answer. "I visited Amazon.com and did a simple search of their online bookstore, typing in the name of (each NFL team) + football."

Using this method, the top-ten most written about, the most "storied," the most literary NFL teams (out of a total of 32 teams in the league) turn out to be:

1. Dallas Cowboys 2. New York Giants 3. Green Bay Packers 4. Chicago Bears 5. Washington Redskins 6. Cleveland Browns 7. Miami Dolphins 8. New York Jets 9. New England Patriots 10. Detroit Lions

Hill continues, "There was a wide disparity between the top of the ranking and the bottom. The top four teams were each cited more than 400 times in the Amazon.com search, the lowest ranking team, only 45 times. The average for all the teams was 185."

Why are some teams written about so much more than others?

Experience Counts

The Giants, Packers, Bears, Redskins and Browns are all teams that began in the early days of the National Football League. They have the most accumulated history, so it makes sense there would be more good material for writers to draw from.

Winning is Everything

Which National Football League Teams Are The Most “Literary”?

The teams that have won the most NFL Championships are the Green Bay Packers (12–time champions), Chicago Bears (9 times) and the New York Giants (6 times). These three teams are all in the top four.

The Power of Numbers

Each year the Harris polling organization does an online survey, released in late September, asking people to name their two favorite pro football teams. In 2005, the results were as follows:

Green Bay Packers 16% Dallas Cowboys 14% New England Patriots 13% Pittsburgh Steelers 13% Philadelphia Eagles 10% San Francisco 49ers 10%

What All NFL Fans Have in Common

Hill believes one thing is certain: "Fans of each and every NFL team are eager consumers of literature about their heroes. Hopefully, this research may help break down some of the unfortunate tribal stereotypes that arise between bitter rivals in the NFL. For instance, Giants fans have always assumed that Cowboys fans get most of their information from video games and daytime TV. Not so. Cowboys fans are the most well–read of all. And it may come as a shock to Chicago Bears fans that Green Bay Packers fans actually know how to read, when in fact the cheese wedges they wear on their heads were actually designed to be a handy way to store and carry books."

Millions of NFL football fans around the globe have found that reading about their favorite team's history, lore and accomplishments is a great way to spend a crisp autumn afternoon. This is particularly true during times when the current edition of their beloved team is having a losing season. Books help keep the memories of past championship glory alive forever.

Are you ready for some READING? Come meet Brian Hill and his co–author, Dee Power, October 14, 1:00 PM at the Borders, Waterfront store, 7135 E. Camelback Rd., Scottsdale.

Brian Hill was inspired by his own experiences in the world of finance and his love of NFL Football to write *Over Time*,

<http://www.OverTimeTheNovel.com>

Hill blogs about the NFL, sportswriters and the

media at

<http://OverTimeTheNovel.blogspot.com>

League Has Significant Rivalries?

By Larry Woods

Which National Football League Teams Are The Most "Literary"?

The National Football League or the NFL is the biggest professional football league in the United States. The NFL has thirty-two teams that are based in a variety of cities across the country. Originally known as the American Professional Football Association when it was formed in 1920, the Association assumed the name "National Football League" in 1922.

At first, the most popular way people enjoyed their football was by watching their favorite college team play but the focus of the country changed in 1958. That NFL game went into overtime and captured a number of new fans who found that they enjoyed the professional football league just as much as if not more than their college football teams. Due to the rising popularity of professional football, the NFL merged with the American Football League in the 1960's to form what is now the National Football League.

Over the years, some friendly and some not-so-friendly rivalries have come about due to a number of circumstances. These rivalries can be categorized into three separate groups. The first is the `intradivisional', which is a rivalry between teams in the same NFL division. The second is interdivisional, which is a rivalry between teams in the different divisions but in the same conference. The third is the `interconference', which is a rivalry between teams in different conferences. Many times fans will hear sportscasters refer to team rivalries as "divisional rivals", "division rival" or "conference rival" instead of including the appropriate prefix.

For example, in the AFC North, there is a rivalry between the Baltimore Ravens and the Cleveland Browns based on the when the team's owner, Art Modell, moved the Cleveland Browns franchise to Baltimore. Fortunately for Cleveland Browns fans, the "Dawg Pound" and its colors remained in Cleveland. The Cleveland Browns were reactivated as a NFL team in 1999. The "Dawg Pound" fans waited for their revenge and got a taste in 2001 when the Browns won against the Ravens after only four games.

Another famous rivalry began in the AFC East when the Buffalo Bills owner, Ralph Wilson, wasn't allowed to base an AFL team in Miami and went on to establish the Buffalo Bills as a charter member of the AFL. The Buffalo Bills and the Miami Dolphins have maintained a rivalry based on this history since 1967. This particular rivalry has had a number of key moments that continued to fuel their contention over the years including playing against each other in the ultimate game of the football season- the Super Bowl.

Larry Woods is a sports writer for

<http://www.pro-college-football-jerseys.com>

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